



**Indiana Career Council  
Core 40 Subcommittee  
June 10, 2014  
Indiana State House  
Senate Committee Room 233  
200 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Rick Barnett, Kris Emaus, James Little, Teresa Lubbers, Heather Moffatt, John Newby, Martin Pagdett (Call in), Derek Redelman, Brad Rhorer, Superintendent Glenda Ritz, TJ Rivard, David Shane, David St. John, Daniel Tyree, Matthew Weinzapfel, Peggy Wild

**Members Absent:** Kathleen Randolph, Marcus Robinson

**Staff Present:** Bob Guffin, Marie Mackintosh

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

Superintendent Glenda Ritz and Teresa Lubbers called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM and welcomed members.

**II. Introductions of Subcommittee members and Key Staff**

Each member introduced themselves, providing relevant experience in both work and education.

**III. Discussion of Subcommittee Duties and Responsibilities**

Ms. Lubbers provided an overview of House Enrolled Act 1213 (P.L. 49-2014) which calls for the creation of the Core 40 subcommittee. She explained that the recommendations this subcommittee will ultimately provide may have a large impact on parents and students. The subcommittee will discuss how current diploma offerings align with both student need and employer need. It was further explained that new diplomas must have no less than 40 academic credits, be designed so that completed courses may satisfy requirements for other high school diplomas, and meet the Indiana College and Career Ready Standards. In addition, the subcommittee must ensure that K-12 and higher education are in alignment with Core 40 requirements.

#### **IV. Overview of the History of the Core 40 Diploma**

SPI Ritz and Ms. Lubbers introduced Dan Clark, Director of the Indiana Education Roundtable, and gave him the floor. Mr. Clark discussed the history of Core 40, the requirements of the three different Core 40 diplomas, and how post-secondary institutions value Core 40 diplomas.

Mr. Clark explained that discussion around Core 40 began in the 1990s between schools, colleges, and employers on how to increase college preparation. In 2001 Indiana became one of five states in the “Diploma Project”. The same year the Education Roundtable recommended that all students should complete the Core 40 curriculum. The State Board of Education adopted this idea in 2004, making Core 40 a requirement for all Indiana high school students. However, students do have the option to opt out of the Core 40 requirement and earn a General Diploma.

A General Diploma has fewer requirements for both math and social studies, but does offer more electives. The General Diploma requires only 23 specific credits, whereas Core 40 has 29 specific credit requirements. In comparison, the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma, when including the directed electives, requires roughly 41 specific credits. There are no GPA requirements for the General Diploma. The Core 40 Academic Honors Diploma requires a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Additionally, all three Core 40 diplomas require a C or higher letter grade for a course to count toward the diploma requirements.

Ms. Lubbers provided statistics on 2013 high school diploma attainment. Indiana had 65,522 total high school graduates. Of these graduates, approximately 17% earned a General Diploma, 50% a Core 40 with Technical Honors or Core 40 Diploma, and 32% a Core 40 Academic Honors Diploma. She continued to college readiness statistics, stating that 62% of Core 40 graduates were college ready. This figure drops to only 22% for those earning a General Diploma.

SPI Ritz advanced the conversation to math requirements and remediation, stating that Indiana needs to hone in on how students can work with math and applied math requirements. Even students earning a Core 40 with Academic Honors diploma require remediation. Ms. Lubbers mentioned there may be a need for more math in high school and that there exists different pathways in which to provide these courses, such as career and technical courses. Mr. Redelman spoke on the importance of math in high school, specifically Algebra II. “It will be helpful to look in detail at what other states are requiring.” Mr. Clark added that Core 40 requires math up to Algebra II, with the Core 40 with Academic Honors requirements going even further. He concluded that changing diploma requirements may affect the current funding structure regarding student diploma attainment, stating “the tangents of funding and accountability are important to keep in mind.”

#### **V. Discussion of Next Steps**

Ms. Lubbers mentioned that the subcommittee may benefit from bringing in speakers from outside the subcommittee. The next meeting should be held in roughly 30 days, after that the subcommittee can decide how to move forward with meetings. An email survey will be sent to members in order to set the next meeting date, which is expected to occur sometime in mid-July.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Ms. Lubbers adjourned the meeting at 3:36 PM.